

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /037 W

-----041807Z 129422 /53

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 870

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. -0652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: CRACKDOWN ON FELA ANIKULPAO-KUTI

REF: (A) LAGOS 2134, (B) LAGOS A-27; 4/2/77

1. LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT HAS RELEASED REPORT OF INQUIRY INTO FEBRUARY 18 RIOT AND ARSON INVOLVING NIGERIAN ARMY, NISICIAN FELA ANIKULAPO-KUTI AND FELA'S FOLLOWERS. GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IS TO CONFISCATE ENTIRE CITY BLOCK IN WHICH FELA'S COMPOUND LOCATED AND BAN USE OF NEARBY HOTEL AS NIGHTCLUB IN ORDER TO RID AREA OF "PEOPLE OF SHADY CHARACTER," PROTECT MORALITY OF NIGERIAN YOUTHS, AND GET FELA AND HIS GROUP AWAY FROM VICINITY OF ARMY BARRACKS. REPORT DEPLORES ARMY VIOLENCE AGAINST FELA, BUT CLAIMS PERPETRATORS ARE UNKNOWN AND RECOMMENDS NO ACTION TO BRING ARMY CULPRITS TO JUSTICE. REPORT DISCOUNTS CLAIMS OF FELA'S GROUP THAT THEY WERE SEXUALLY MOLESTED.

2. BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT FELA'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION, THE YOUNG AFRICAN PIONEERS, CLAIMED TO HAVE 25,000 MEMBERS, BE INVESTIGATED TO DETERMINE ITS "ACTIVITIES, MEMBERSHIP AND ITS TRUE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES." LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT HAS REFERRED THIS QUESTION TO FMG "FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION." INVESTIGATORS ALSO

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RAISE ALARM OVER FELA'S "DEFIANCE OF THE CONSTITUTION" IN NAMING HIS COMPOUND "KALAKUTA REPUBLIC," AS IF FELA'S RHETORICAL SECESSION WERE REAL THREAT TO UNITY OF NIGERIA.

3. EMBASSY HAS HEARD REPORTS THAT SMG LET IT BE KNOWN THAT RULING IN FELA'S FAVOR WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED AND THAT FMG WOULD NOT PAY ANY DAMAGES. PARENTS, INCLUDING HIGH-RANKING

CIVIL SERVANTS, DISTRAUGHT OVER FELA'S HARBORING OF THEIR RUN-
AWAY CHILDREN, ALSO REPORTEDLY BROUGHT PRESSURE OF LAGOS STATE
GOVERNMENT TO BE TOUGH.

4. COMMENT: MAJORITY OF OLDER, TRADITIONALLY MINDED NIGERIANS
PROBABLY APPLAUD CRACKDOWN ON BLATANT "IMMORALITY" "MARIHAUNA AND
FREE SEX) OF FELA AND HIS "GROUPIES." REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
IS SO BIASED; #923;34, IN HEAPING BLAME ON FELA THAT PERSONS WITH
ESSENTIALLY NO SYMPATHY FOR FELA ARE COMPLAINING OF INJUSTICE.
//DAILY SKETCH// SAYS RIGHT COULD NOT CONCEIVABLY BE ALL ON
ONE SIDEH ND WRONG ON THE OTHER. ""TRIBUNE// POINTS OUT IRONYI*
430945'S PREACHING THAT NO ONE CAN SET HIMSELF ABOVE THE LAW.
THIS APPLIES, PAPER SAYS, AS MUCH TO SOLDIERS AS IT DOES TO
FELA. //DAILY EXPRESS// SAYS REPORT INSULTS INTELLIGENCE OF
NIGERIAN PUBLIC. PERHAPS SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, COMPLAINTS ARE
CONFINED TO YORUBA MEDIA.7

5. BY WHOLESALE CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY IN FELA'S NEIGHBOR-
HOOD, NIGERINA MILITARY HAS ONCE AGAIN USED SLEDGEHAMMER TO
CRACK SMALL NUT. SOMETIMES THHS SEEMS ONLY PROBLEMJJXSOLVING
DEVICE MILITARY KNOWS. CONSIDERATIONS OF EFFECT FELA CASE MAY
HAVE ON CIVILIAN-MILITAAGK RELATIONS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN OVER-
RIDDEN BY MILITARY'S IMPLACABLE ENMITY FOR FELA.(IN EYES OF FMG
HIS GREATEST SIN MAY NOT BE HIS UNCONVENTIONAL LIFESTYLE, BUT
HIS PERSISTENT AND EFFECTIVE CRITICISM OF MILITARY AND
MILITARY RULE.
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